

# Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

## Volunteer Newsletter • March 2011



Photo courtesy of Addison Mohler

### What's new?

February was very un-February like this year in regards to weather, with a few days hitting highs around the upper 50s and lower 60s. All this warm weather caused the ice on top of the lake to disappear for another year! It is a sign that spring is surely approaching. To get ready for Spring and Summer volunteering, look below for information about an upcoming volunteer orientation. Please help us spread the word to anyone who might be interested!

### Cheers!

Thanks are in order for the wonderful volunteers who came out this week to help survey, clean out, and repair wood duck boxes at the lake with Jim Holcomb. Thank you to Fred Bilbrey, Bob Christensen, Fred Confer, Cheryl Huizinga, Bob Huizinga, Al McGlinsky, and Rodney Moore! And thank you to Jim for letting us tag along and help out.

### Around the water cooler...

The Refuge is currently recruiting for several spring and summer job opportunities, including a biological intern who will help with wildlife surveys, a full-time Social Services Assistant to serve as the Youth Conservation Corps leader, and teens to join the 8-week Youth Conservation Corps. See the Refuge website at <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat> for more information.

### Did you know...

The Friends of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge recently held their annual membership event at the Visitor Center. The evening featured highlights of recent Friends' successes by Bob Christensen, a Deer Flat historical talk by Bob Sobba, and information tables on Friends' upcoming events. If you enjoy volunteering, appreciate the Refuge, and want to help even more, think about becoming a Friends member! Memberships start at just \$10, and all contributions are tax deductible. If you really want to get involved, consider joining a committee or even the Friends' board. For more information about the Friends, contact Genevieve Johannsen at [gcj\\_83651@yahoo.com](mailto:gcj_83651@yahoo.com) or 467-7515

### Upcoming Events:

**Wild About Life Lecture Series:** Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM

The Edible Yard: Come learn about how to get more food into (and out of) your existing landscape with tips on how to evaluate sites, pick appropriate plants, and combat potential problems. Ariel Agenbroad, Horticulture Extension Educator with the University of Idaho-Canyon County Extension, will lead this lecture at the Visitor Center.

**Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest:** Deadline: March 15th

Young artists are invited to enter the contest, which is open to all K-12 students in Idaho. For more information, visit <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/education/jrduck.html>.

Activities are free. To find out more, contact [deerflat@fws.gov](mailto:deerflat@fws.gov) or (208)-467-9278.



## **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:**

### **Discover Wildlife Journeys Field Trip Leaders**

**Dates and Times:** Tuesdays-Thursdays from March to May, 9:30am-2:30pm

This spring marks the kickoff of our Discover Wildlife Journeys field trips. Volunteers are needed to help guide 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders through educational stations near the Visitor Center and connect students with nature. No experience necessary – just a love of kids, enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn. **Deadline to register: March 11<sup>th</sup>. Training will be held March 15th from 1:00-4:00pm at the Visitor Center.**



Photo courtesy of Addison Mohler

### **Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest Helpers (2-4 volunteers in March and April)**

**Dates and Times:** At your convenience or as noted

**Data entry:** Help enter information about contest participants into a database. Help needed through March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Deadline to register: Ongoing ASAP**

**Judging help:** Help to organize artwork entries during judging. 9:30-noon, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Deadline to register: 3/16**

**Returning artwork:** Help to sort judged artwork and return artwork and certificates/prizes/ribbons to all participants. Help needed from 3/28-4/15. Specific times will be set up for teams to work together. **Deadline to register: Ongoing**

### **Deer Flat Volunteer Orientation**

**Date and Time:** March 31st, 7:00-8:00pm

Are you interested in volunteering for the Refuge, but you're not entirely sure what it entails? Or are you interested in volunteering to do something different and new? Come to this volunteer orientation session where I will preview volunteer opportunities for the Spring, Summer, and Fall at the Refuge.

### **Earth Day Work Day (as many volunteers as possible!)**

**Date and Time:** April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00am-12:00pm

Celebrate Earth Day at Deer Flat by participating in our Earth Day Work Day! Celebrate being outdoors and being stewards of the land by improving habitat for wildlife by removing noxious weeds and litter at Lake Lowell. **Deadline to register: April 17<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Lake Use Survey Volunteers (3-4 volunteers)**

**Date and Time:** April 15th-September 30th

Help the Refuge staff to characterize recreational use of Lake Lowell by surveying boating activity. More information on this opportunity will be provided as the Lake Use Survey becomes more developed.

### **Scout Day (3-4 volunteers per month)**

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month from 1-3pm (except this month!). **Upcoming dates: March 12<sup>th</sup>, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and May 7th** A free environmental education opportunity for Scouts to earn wildlife-related badges. Volunteers lead programs that include crafts and a short hike. No experience necessary—only enthusiasm and a willingness to learn! **Deadline to register: Ongoing**

**Thanks again, and see you at the Refuge!**

*Cody Dix, Volunteer Coordinator*